

Summary

"Pro Mayak"

No. 28 (53), 13 July 2001

1. "Congratulations!" - greeting from Mayor Malkov to the staff of Pro Mayak, on the paper's one-year anniversary.

2. "News Briefs" (*Translator note: Translated in full*)

1. On 11 July, RF President Vladimir Putin signed a package of laws on the importation of foreign irradiated nuclear fuel. Additionally, in accordance with a Presidential Decree, a special commission of 20 people was established, headed by Academician and Nobel Laureate Zhores Alfeyorov, which will deal with all the issues pertaining to the importation of irradiated nuclear fuel. Alfeyorov believes that there should not be concern over importing spent fuel, even more so since natural resource reserves are in short supply.

2. RF Minister of Atomic Energy A. Rumyantsev, at a press conference in the "Kurchatov Institute" Russian Science Center, answering a question on cooperation between Russian and Ukrainian specialists, reported that Ukraine is extremely interested in the completion of construction of the Rovenskiy and Khmel'nitskiy nuclear power plants. According to him, "activating the construction at the Rovenskiy and Khmel'nitskiy nuclear power plants was the first Ukrainian proposal which Viktor Chernomyrdin received after being named Ambassador to Ukraine."

3. On 3 July a press conference was held on the "Rosenergoatom" Concern first and second quarter 2001 results. However the majority of the time was spent by the atomic energy representatives discussing issues of cooperation with RAO UES (Unified Energy System of Russia) and exporting nuclear power plant energy. This year "Rosenergoatom" has plans to move into the energy market in Georgia, Finland and Ukraine. In the first six months of 2001, nuclear power plants produced 66.5 billion kilowatt hours of electrical power. It was noted that "Rosenergoatom" is holding talks on providing electrical power to Finland from the Kolskiy Nuclear Power Plant.

4. On 3 July a press conference was held in the International Reception Center at the "Kurchatov Institute" Russian Science Center (RSC), by the RF Minister of Atomic Energy A. Rumyantsev and the President of the RSC, Y. Velikhov, during which it was stated that it will still be a few years before the first shipments of spent nuclear fuel make their way to Russia. At the same time, the Minister did not rule out the possibility that RF President Vladimir Putin will sign the laws approved by the State Duma, allowing the importing and reprocessing of foreign fuel in Russia this month.

5. Russian Academy of Sciences President Y. Osipov, while in Krasnoyarsk, stated that the importation of foreign irradiated nuclear fuel for its subsequent reprocessing is in the country's interests. According to him, the proposed amount of imported fuel is "a millionth of what Russia already has." The country is already contaminated with its own radioactive materials, he says, and there is no money in the budget to remedy this situation. Dozens of submarines with nuclear reactors on board stand "idle" in the north, and the situation at "Mayak" in the Urals is difficult. Amidst these circumstances, Minatom is left with one choice - earn the money itself in order to be able to rid the country of nuclear production waste, according to Osipov.

6. A number of meetings between "Mayak" leadership and South Ural Construction were held from 8-11 July, within the framework of the agreement between the Ministry for Atomic Energy and the U.S. Defense Department regarding provision of materials, training and services in conjunction with the construction of a safe, secure and environmentally sound storage facility for fissile materials.

7. On 14 July the newspaper "Pro Mayak" celebrates its one year anniversary.

8. Representatives from sixteen industry enterprises, including "Mayak" gathered at the Smolensk training center for RBMK reactor power plant personnel in response to direction from First Deputy Minister V. Ivanov "to investigate the status of the system of training personnel in hazardous nuclear and radioactive facilities and develop recommendations for its improvement."

9. On 9 July, scientists and representatives of Duma political factions met to discuss issues and outlooks for the future development of energy in Russia.

3. "On Nature - According to the Law" - "Mayak" Deputy General Director Yevgeniy Gordeevich Drozhko answers the paper's question about what took place at a State Duma Commission on Nuclear Safety session on 27 June.

4. "FMSF: Working Issues" - interview with Deputy General Director for construction, Aleksandr Nikolaevich Demidov, about the 9-10 July meeting at "Mayak" between U.S. and Russian specialists to discuss the Fissile Material Storage Facility project. He answers questions on the purpose and outcome of the meeting, the timeframe for startup, and the effects of the new administration on the project.

5. "Rationally and Effectively" - article on the Legislative Assembly and its current work on energy and nuclear industry issues.

6. "The New Code: Rights and Responsibilities" - The draft Labor Code, which had been agreed upon by the professional unions, was approved by the State Duma in its first reading on 5 July. This article contains comments on the new Code by Vladimir Leveryevich Kuznetsov, "Mayak" Labor Union Committee Chairman.

7. "How to Work at a Nuclear Power Plant" - interview with "Mayak" Training Bureau Chief Dmitri Alekseevich Domnin, in response to First Deputy Minister Ivanov's tasking "to investigate the status of the system of training personnel in hazardous nuclear and radioactive facilities and develop recommendations for its improvement." He answers questions regarding the current status and future plans for training.

8. "Before the Recess" - article on current discussions of programs, regulations, and budget issues ongoing in the Council of Deputies, and the tasks which must be accomplished before the six-week break.

9. "A New Position" - brief article on the creation of a new position, the Assistant to the General Director for Regional Affairs, a job which was assumed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Gribov, and experienced "Mayak" administrator.